June
15th
1938

Rev. Edwin Knudsen
Skagway
Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

I am enclosing herewith a page from THE STAR WEEKLY of Toronto, which describes the very romantic missionary enterprise that is being carried on by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada. It appealed to me very strongly as a type of work that might well be introduced into our program of Presbyterian missions in southeastern Alaska. Of course, we have the Princeton, and I realize that it is used occasionally to carry sick people to the hospital and for other types of work similar to what is described in this article; but it has always seemed to me that the Princeton is kept so busy on other errands that it does not seem possible to use it specifically for a program of human welfare and evangelism such as is visualized in the activity of the United Church Marine Missions on the British Columbia coast. If there is need in that area, it seems to me that there is still more need among the natives in southeastern Alaska,

Since I have been obliged to abandon my hope of using the Princeton primarily for this type of work, much as I would like to see it done, I have had it in mind to give Walter Soboleff an appointment to do this very kind of work when he graduates from Dubuque next spring. The girl he is going to marry is a trained nurse; and if we could appoint them as itinerant missionaries, equip them with a boat not nearly so large or pretentious as the Princeton, I believe they would be able to carry out the plan which I have longed to inaugurate in our work in southeastern Alaska but for which the way has not seemed to be clear since I found that the Princeton either was not available or not adaptable to this type of ministry.

My purpose in sending this article to you is, first of all, to sow the idea of inaugurating work of this kind in the minds of the members of Alaska Presbytery; and, second, to secure the reaction of each of you to the plan which I have in mind, to appoint Walter Soboleff as an itinerant evangelist, equipped with a boat, and with his wife as a nurse to carry on a purely evangelistic work among the natives in the little villages and canneries, whom we do not reach in the program of the Princeton and among whom it is not necessary or advisable to establish churches or to erect church buildings. What we want above all things is to take Christ into the hearts and lives of individual natives, and I shall never feel that our program of Alaska missions is thoroughly efficient until we have a missionary who is reaching the scattered, isolated, and unevangelized portion of the native population who are living in the small villages all along the southeastern Alaska coast.

I am taking you into my confidence in this matter, and I hope you will write me frankly giving me your reaction to these plans which I have in mind and which I have discussed with Walter Soboleff with his hearty approval, and which have been brought to a focus by the reading of this article concerning the Marine Missions of the United Church, of whose ministry I was not aware until this paper came into my hands.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Report of Rev. E.E. Knudsen Skagway

The real experience of this month was the attending of the Young Peoples Conference at Sitka. The four boys that went with us received a real blessing. There is a new attitude toward the Young Peoples meetings. They are looking forward already to their return next year.

The repairs have been completed on the church roof and steps and now for a little paint and general cleaning up and we will be ready for the tourist season. It is with a feeling of regret that I have to watch so many of the regular attendents at Worship service work all day Sunday. But when one realizes that the season for work is so very short, they must work when the opportunity comes. Through the personal calls even at their office and in the shops the church endeavors to keep them mindful of God's loving care in the midst of labor.

Vacation Church School started this Monday with 35 pupils enroled and the attendence has increased steadily as the days go on. We are working hard to make Christ real in their every day lives. Mrs. Knudsen with two of the Young people has charge of the beginners and primary departments and I have the Juniors, with the help of a third Young person. There is a real interest and the work is going smoothly.

Report of work on field at
Skagway, Alaska

In spite of wind, rain, and cloudy days the month of June and July has given us much to be encouraged over. The 6) six days of sunshine came just when we had given up hope that the sun ever came out to enhance this beautiful spot. Needless to say we chose this time to take the Sunday School class on an over night hike to upper lake. This being my first initiation into real mountain climbing I did not object at all when someone would cal out for a rest. It was a beautiful spot and we had a fine time around the fire at night when the work and weariness of the climb had given place to calm and rest and comradship. Stories, discussion and prayer ended the day that never grew dark, but into which sleep must come.

V.C.S. ended June 24th. with a decision service in which 13 decisions were made to give ones life to Christ. The school was a very happy one with good fellowship and joy very much in evidence. We used "A First Primary Book in Religion" by Colson Abbingdon Press and "Knights of Service" Bradshaw, Abbingdon Press. We had an average attendence of 38 for the two weeks period.

Progress is being made in bringing a church consciensness into the minds of the people of the community. Interest in the work of the church and the needs of the church is increasing. We have a long way to go but with Prayer and God's Grace nothing is impossible.

Rev. Edwin E. Knudsen

Skagway Alaska. July 19, 1938

Dr. J.M.Somerndike
156 5th. Ave.
New York.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I was very much interested in the account of British Colombia's Sea Going Pastors and like you thrilled to the opportunities that must be here if we but seize them. You may be sure that I will do everything I can to keep this need before the minds of the men of Presbytery. Of course I am the newest man here and therefore should be seen and not heard too often, however I think I can arrange that. I had the pleasure of meeting Walter Sobeloff and his wife at the Sitka Conference and like them very much. They seem so capable. I see no reason in view of their apparent popularity among the members of Presbytery that were present at the conference, why your plan of giving him a boat and the field you spoke of. How would the "Lindsley" serve the purpose? Last winter it was tied up at Klowock and Craig and used very little. Mr. Bromley uses it during the season of fishing to visit the canneries. He mentioned the fact that the boat was a little too much for him to handle and keep in condition and that this might be his last year with it. Would it be possible to recondition this boat and equip it with a Deisel motor and let it be used by Walter and his wife? I have not seen any of the members of Presbytery yet to get their views so I cannot speak for any one but myself. This would seem to be a logical thing to do.

Mrs. Knudsen and I are really enjoying our work up here more and more. The people are so fine and the response is good for the summer months when most everyone is working. Plans are under way for the fall and winter program. I am building a little shop at the back of the manse where the boys can meet with me for some hours of fellowship and directed endeavor.

With best wishes

Rev. E.E. Knudsen

Report of Work at Skagway

Rev. EE. Knudsen

July and August. We have been looking for summer since coming to Skagway but it seems that there isn8t to be any this year. Just Clouds and rain and wind. Neverthe less the sun has been shining within and the work in the church has been a joy. The big event of the month was the Sunday School Picnic that was held at Lake Bennett. 325 attended the event and wonders of all wonders it was a bright sunshiney day. The Haines Mission were invited and came en-masse. Our Sunday School furnished the transportation for them and for our own pupils, also milk and coffee for the entire group. The ride up over white pass is one always to give a thrill.

The tourist season is still with us and consequently if one is to see the members of the church one has to go where they are working. Some of the time was spent in calling on the men at the wharf, shops, and offies.

The boys cààss in sunday school went for a three day hike up into the mountains and a very happy time was had by all.

Report of E.E. Knudsen

Skagway

The biggest joy of the month has been the response of the young people to our Sunday evening fellowship. we now have an enrollment of 40. The ages are intermediates on up thru high school. We are meeting at 5:30 for a season of song which sets the tone for the worship and discussion to follow. We are choosing our own topics and working them out ourselves. After the discussion we eat and play games until 8 oclock. Two of the Young people lead the meeting and two furnish the sandwiches. Our hostess, as we are meeting the homes at the present time, furnishes the cocoa and usually cookies. At the rate we are growing there are not many homes that can hold such a group and we are painting and kalsomining the Social room in the church to take care of this. The interest is at top pitch right now and the opportunity of the leaders is to keep it such. We are very fortunate to have the help of 4 fine college young people one of whom is Tom Kendall whose father was the pastor of the Juneau M.E. church only a short time ago. Mrs. Johnston is also of Great help.

A mens fellowship has been started with a membership of 8. We meet in the homes also once in three weeks for a few hours of fellowship , discussion on problems vital to our church, country, and world. and also a plate supper. Our church is sadly lacking in physical equipment with which to put on a church centered program, but we have designs on the future and only hope that we can progress the way we wish. Our prayers are to that end.

Death came to our midst again when Mrs. J.J.F. Ward passed from us Oct. 29th. She was one of the fine workers of the church as some of the former pastors will remember. I only knew her on the sick bed and must say that I never have seen such a fine Christian spirit.

Report of Skagway Field
Rev. E.E. Knudsen

This month has been a joy in which to work not only because of the beauty round about and the fine weather but for the fellowship with pepple in the midst of it all. Three things stand out in this period, the first is a group of men from one of the Canadian boats who come to the church each time the boat is in port and we spend an hour or two about the organ playing and singing and talking. There have been from four to ten men from this one boat. They are off now for the winter but are looking forward to the fellowship again next year. The second event was the "Flower Festival" at which time(Sept 4th.) we filled the church with flowers, whose size and beauty can only be found in Skagway, and with the help of the Choir built up a music service appropriate to the day. We received two members into the church and Baptized four ~~six~~ babies, and three children. There was standing room only. We are planning to make this an annual affair, that is the flower festival, we cannot guarantee the babies. The third event was the finishing of my work shop and mounting the power tools. I hope to have a boys club a part of whose time will be in creating things with their hands. After all Christ received his training in a "Carpenter Shop".

We are planning to increase our eldership by one member this month and plans are under way for observance of "World Wide Communion" October 2nd. We had such hopes for the winter program this summer but as one family after another leave and the young people go out for school it leaves rather an empty feeling and a wonder just who is to help carry it on. Certainly no pastor c can do it all alone. There must be a group of loyal workers along. Time will tell.

Oct.
21st
1938

Rev. Edwin Knudsen,
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

Just a line to express my appreciation of the splendid work you are doing, and of the good reports I am receiving from those who have met you and who have had an opportunity to share your fine spirit. I wish I could have been with you for your flower festival. It must have been a very interesting service and I am delighted with the thought that you are interesting yourself in such a wide scope of activities.

With kind regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Nov.
10th
1938

Rev. E. E. Knudsen,
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

Just a line to let you know of our continued interest in all that pertains to your work at Skagway. We are delighted to learn that the young people's conference group is coming forward in such a gratifying manner, and we hope that you and Mrs. Knudsen will have great joy in the growth and development of little Eileen. That was an awfully fine thing for you and Mrs. Knudsen to do.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Report of Rev. EE.Knudsen Skagway

This month has seen the passing away of one of our finest native women, Mrs. Matthews. She was a real Christian and her face is missed among the regular attendents at church. The Church was filled at her funeral.

Mrs. Knudsen and I have taken her little granddaughter to live with us. Eileen is such a charming and lovable little girl and we have grown quite attached to her.

The Young peoples group have finally became alive. Whether it is the return to school or the fact that we meet from 5:30 to 8:00 Sunday evenings with a program of Hymns, discussion on some vital topic, Worship, Eats, and Games, that has brought this about I cannot tell, but last Sunday we had 24 out to meeting and 5 were absent becauce of sickness. I believe that with this program for the young folk we will be building a better church for the future than by having a second preaching service on Sunday. We are getting discussion under way for a mens club and hope to have something definite on that line before long.

The spiritual interest is growing in the church as was evidenced on World Wide Communion when our Communion set was far from adiquate to care for the congregation. We will need a larger set. We are looking forward to a fine winter.

Report Of

Rev. E.E. Knudsen
Skagway, Alaska

Winter in Alaska is far different than I thought it might be. Being so far north I thought it would be cold and a great deal of snow. So far there has been very little snow and no real cold weather. The Old Timers say "This is unusual". We can take a lot of this "Unusual " weather as it has helped a great deal in holding up the attendence of the Church. With the exception of New Years where he took a 50 % drop in average attendence the services have been very well attended. The Christmas Program by the Sunday School was very well attended and appreciated. We built the program around the theme of worship using the Pantomime "The Nativity" With the costumes and the lighting efects, that were arrived at by three days work by the youthful electricians playing around in my shop, and the help of the Young Peoples Fellowship for a Choir It really was a service of adoration and worship. The Young Peoples Fellowship is really working out in fine style. With a slack time on Christmas and New Years evenings due to the fact that all the families here have their dinners in the evening, nevertheless they were all back on the following Sunday. Thirtyfive last Sunday. The Youngpeople were responsible for New Drapes in the Social room and the painting of the walls and floor. The Primary chairs have taken on the many colors of the rainbow which adds to the lightness of this foom for that department of the SundaySchool. Also they went "Caroling" on Christmas eve and gave baskets to these in need.

On the whole I believe there is a more united feeling on the part ofthe people here and am looking for a good response for the Lenten services and the Easter Season.

Report of Skagway Field

Rev. E.E.Knudsen

This has been a month of much activity in preparation for the period of Lent and the Easter Season. A communicants class of seven young people has been started with the probability of there being a few more. The group came out of the Young Peoples Fellowship which was started last fall and it looks as if the seed planted then and all winter would bear some fruit. One young man came to me after Y.P.F. one Sunday evening and said that he had decided to give his life to the service of Christ and wanted to become a member of the church. His decision I am sure will assist others in their thinking about the place of Christ in their lives.

There is much interest in the rumor that the Church needs a new Manse and it looks as if there would be a fine response upon the part of the people as soon as the necessary steps can be taken to put before them definite plans and costs. I have been working long hours over a design and upon costs. There is already a great many offers of labor and financial help on the part of the folk. It would be a fine thing for the community when they all get behind and push. We know that it can be done.

Report of Skagway field
Rev. E.E.Knudsen

This has been a very busy month with the beginning of Lent and the Pre-Easter program, and the preparations for Presbytery Meeting at Hoonah.

A break in the winter weather has brought about the return of many folk to worship service and to Sunday-school. The Young Peoples Fellowship has held very steady as cold weather and a North wind seem to bother them very little. We have organized an Adult Bible class that will meet every Wed. evening. There are 14 enrolled and interest is high. We are studying the book of acts or rather the Life of Paul as it is given to us in the Book of Acts, bringing in his letters as he wrote them in their historical setting. Also a communicants class was started with four members but which now has grown to nine. This group comes out of the Young Peoples Fellowship which is rather encouraging.

Three new members were added to the Church one by letter and two on reaffirmation of faith. We are looking for a fine response for the Easter season with special services running all through Holy Week.

There is much talk and interest going about town about getting together and building a new Manse.

Report of Skagway field.

Rev. E.E. Knudsen

Following the Easter season there was not the let-up in interest, that sometimes accompanies an extended effort, rather there has been a better understanding of the work of the Gospel and it is slowly being shown in the growth of cooperation and willingness to work on the part of the people in the community. There is a distinct advance in community spirit which can be traced to the growth in spirit of worship. The evil in our sorroundings becomes apparent only when the truth of the Gospel is injected into its midst. This has been the interest ofthe Church for some time. Its results are beginning to show. This has been a very happy month in the work. The Church has been well supported in its services and every one is anticipating the program of building that will bring our plant up to the point where it will be adequate for the needs. A new manse first that will have a basement large enough to furnish a game room for the boys and girls and a Living room large enough for the Young Peoples Fellowship. Then in a few years to change the Sunday School room and make it larger adding on a kitchen that we might have some social functions withing the church itself.

The young people are looking forward to the attending of Conference in a couple of weeks. We have a very live group and there ought to be some good things come from them.

Report on Skagway field

Rev. E Knudsen

This has been a soul stirring month with two fine sessions. One the meeting of Presbytery that filled one with enthusiasm again to tackle the work and the other Holy Week with its many fine contacts and experiences.

Our church had worship services centering about the theme of the Three Crosses on the Hill, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These were preparatory for the communion service to be held on Friday. Their Music for the first three nights was furnished by the Young Peoples Fellowship and by the adult choir on Friday. Our comunion was held b candle light and was very beautiful. The spirit of worship was all through the service and it was at this service that eight of our people came to the table on profession of faith. To me this was the most inspiring service of the week.

Easter came with its special services in the Sunday School with an offering of over $8.00 to the Board of Missions. eight of the young people received their cross and crown awards for perfect attendence during the year. The Church service was well attended almost all the available space was taken up. Special music b the Choir and the string ensemble were greatly appreciated.

I am much encouraged by the way the spirit of worship and fellowship is growing in the church, and now after a year in which to get acquainted am looking forward to greater progress. This can come only as we are led by the spirit of Love.

Skagway, Alaska. Jan. 21, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 5th. Ave.
New York N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I have appreciated your letters of encouragement very much. We are coming along quite well with the work here as far as I can tell, We are enjoying the work a great deal although we miss the pressure that was on us while we were back in Minnesota. I don't mean Presbyterial Pressure but the intimate feeling of being in close contact with the affairs of State and Nation. Here the news is from one to two weeks old before we read it and by that time it has lost its flavor. Radio Reception is poor most of the time due to the high mountains all about. While we miss all this nevertheless there is a feeling of contentment in being so far away that no one bothers about us. So again I can say we appreciate your letters.

We are quite happy in the response the church has acorded us. Not only by their attendence at the service of worship but in the material response to the repairing and placing in condition the Church muilding. I thought the article in "Monday Morning" on the keeping up of Church property was very good. There is a better feeling on the part of the people as they come to worship.

We have just been made the gift of a corner lot across from the Church which along with the two adjacent lots which we already own, would make an ideal site for anew Manse. I would like to know your opinion as to the possibility of building one in the near future. We could get some material out of the old Church Building, but upon close inspection not as much as I thought when I first wrote to you this summer. We really need a Manse here. There is so much of repair to be done on the old one, which is just a shell, that it would be a waste of labor and money.

Also I think there would be another advantage in view of the fact that there isn't a well built house in the community, and people are just patching buildings here and there, a new manse would create a new pride among them not only for the Church but for themselves and it may help in developing some Community pride which certainly is lacking.

I realize that this year has been a hard year in which to raise Mission money and that it may not be possible to start such a project just yet. But I would like to know what the possibilities are and how much our obligation would be.

I have been working over some plans and as soon as I can get some prices of materials I will be able to give an estimate of what the cost would be up here.

With good wishes for this next years work

sincerely

Rev. Edwin E. Knudsen

Rev. Edwin E. Knudsen

Jan.
30th
1923

Rev. Edwin Knudsen,
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

I have your letter of January 21st. With reference to the matter of building a new manse, I will say that we would be very glad to concur with the Skagway congregation in the erection of a new manse but there are no funds available at the present time for such a project. Probably the Skagway congregation would like to put on a campaign to raise money for the erection of the new manse. In that event of course the Board would help by supplementing in a substantial way the amount that is locally raised. It would be perfectly proper for you to use whatever you can salvage out of the old church building in erecting the new manse.

Undoubtedly it would create a fine impression upon the community to put such a project through, and I hope that your church officers will get behind you in it. At least one-half of the total cost of the manse should be raised on the field, either in cash, donated material, or donated labor.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

May
29th
1939

Rev. Edwin E. Knudsen,
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

I have referred your letter of May 18th to our Department of Buildings and Property. They will correspond with you directly with reference to the loan and grant which you desire in connection with the new manse building. I trust they will be able to work the situation out to your entire satisfaction.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BH UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

Report of Skagway Field

This has been a most enjoyable month not only in regards the weather but because of the fine response to our Vacation Church School. We had our school the last two weeks in June and had an average attendence of 42. We descovered that by waiting a few weeks after school is out there is a greater interest and a better spirit in the school. A great many of our teachers came from our Young Peoples Fellowship. They were good help and it was a fine experience for them.

The Young Peoples Fellowship climbed to upper Dewey (that is 15 of us did) on Monday the 10th. and spent the night. We had a good sing around the campfire before going to bed and sleeping on balsom under the stars. In spite of clouds that would sometimes envelope us and shed a few drops of rain we had a fine time. We returned Tuesday noon.

Plans are under way for the Flower festival to be held the last week in August at which time we hope to have another class of communicants come into the membership of the church.

Edwin E Knudsen

July(?) 1940

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Minister
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

Narrative Report of Skagway Field:

I certainly feel that the statistical report means nothing for this month as so many of the activities have taken a temporary vacation while we work on the new Manse. As most of the men are working during the summer months the burden has fallen upon me to get it under cover before the bad weather sets in and if everything holds out we will have it enclosed by the first of Sept. We are all ready for the roof now. It has been a long two months of work but with the fine help of Mr Rasmussen our elder and several highschool boys we have accomplished a great deal. We are expending every effort to have thanksgiving dinner in the new manse but don not know as yet whether it can be done. Fall program will be upon us before long and of course the work on the Manse will have to slow up them.

We are planning our annual Flower festaval in the church for the first of Sept. and are working to make it a good time. There are a number of Baptisms arranged for already and we hope some new members, will be taken in.

The coming of Miss Ogg and Mrs. Randal and Dr. Crawford have brightened our summer a great deal. It is always so pleasant to meet folk from the Board and share experiences with them.

August 28, 1940

Rev. Mr. Edwin E. Knudsen
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Knudsen:

I am quite sure you have had a very busy summer taking care of tourists and making friends with the Board members that have visited with you. All have given me very fine reports.

I wish you would take time to send me some information about the manse building. How is it progressing, etc.?

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA

November 7, 1940

Rev. Mr. Edwin Knudsen
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Knudsen:

Congratulations on the progress you have made on the new manse! You certainly do have something that justifies a real pride.

I am glad you had the opportunity of going to Fairbanks and Anchorage. The trip will enable you to appreciate better the whole Alaskan field.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Minister

SKAGWAY, ALASKA

We have had some very interesting times this past month. Thanksgiving day services were well attended even though we observed a democratic proclamation in the midst of a republican community. Immediately we began to think of Christmas and all ofits varied activities. The Sunday School Worship program, the Community tree, and the midnight service for the 24th. were to be planned for. The Sunday School had its usual program of drills by the primary while the juniors dramatized the "Nativity." One of the pleasant surprises was the offering of $31.40 which was to go to the boards of our church. This was the largest Christmas offering for some time. I say this was a pleasant suprise because the common attitude has always been that"as soon as you mention missions the people will not give, but if the offering is to be used in the church itself they will give." I followed this advice the first year and our offering was $25.00 even. However after living with these folk for over a year and outlineing the work the Boards were doing all over the world, it was good to get this response.

The Young Peoples Fellowish were in charge of the Midnight candlelighting service. We had a fine attendance and a real spirit of worship throughout the service. We also went caroling in the evening to the shutins and the sick.

And now we look back over another year and recognise the problems and fears for what they were. There is no problem that cannot be overcome if we are minded to work it out. Progress has been slower that we hoped for but there has been progress. Mrs. Knudsen and I are looking forward to another year of service here.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Minister
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

[1940?]

Dr. Everett B. King
156 5th. Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I am sorry to have neglected writing you about the progress of the new Manse but now that the exterior is completed and ready for winter I am changing from a six day week and twelve hour day to a four day week and only ten hours of being forman carpenter, and general handy man. We really have accomplished a great deal in the four months we have been at work. The material is all here and the heating unit is on the way, everything paid for and no debts. We have received a little more than our $1500 subscribed locally and now that fall is here more men are able to give of their time. We have not paid for labor yet and we are trying hard not to. There may be a charge for wireing the house as I was afraid to tackle that. But the heating and plumbing I can do if need be. I am enclosing some picture I finished the other night that tells the story up to October first.

In September Mrs. Knudsen and I were invited to fly with our local pilot to Fairbanks and Anchorage which of course we accepted. There being no opportunity to ask for this permission to go we left rather suddenly. We had a nice visit in the Fairbanks and Anchorage Churches. Both men are doing fine work and really have ideas. As you have flown over the same territory you know the thrill of seeing Mt. McKinley and the vast areas of mountains and valleys. But there was one thrill you missed and that was a forced landing coming as we flew over lake Bennet only fifteen minutes from home. The only sandy beach in miles happened to be right under us. It was pretty rough but we managed to miss the stumps and logs. After locating the trouble with the motor we got busy and cleared a place to take off and arrived home just as they were thinking of ordering a plane to look for us.

The day before we left Presbytery ordained Walter Sobeleff at Juneau. It was a very fine service and all the men of Presbytery were there, with the exception of Mr Peterson of course. We believe that Walter will and can make good in this field. You have probably heard by this time that Mr. Bromley was appointed our National Missions Chairman upon the resignation of Mr. Yaw. Mr. Yaws duties were too heavy for him to continue in this office. I for one regret the necessity of this change.

We hope soon the be able to take a more active part in the affairs of Presbytery as well as hope to ,ove into the new Manse by Christmas.

sincerely Rev. Edwin Knud...

March 28, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Edwin Knudsen
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Brother Knudsen:

It is necessary that I make an appraisal of the work we are now carrying on in Alaska. I am, therefore, coming to you for help. Please give me an appraisal of our Presbyterian work in southeastern Alaska in Alaska Presbytery. I am particularly interested in receiving the following information:

1. A brief description of the town or community where our church is located. Give the population of the community, tell whether it is native or white, and give an accurate statement of the number and names of other churches serving in the community.

2. A statement of the condition of our church property, giving the actual value as well as the commercial value.

3. A digest of the program of our church, including the Sunday school and church attendance, young people's activities, together with any other service the church is rendering.

I am eager for this information to be in my hands as soon as possible so I shall appreciate your sending it by airmail.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA

June 26, 1941

Rev. Mr. Edwin Knudsen
Skagway, Alaska

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

This is an official notification of your dual appointment as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Haines, Alaska, and Director of Haines House, a home for Indian children adjoining the church, from September 1, 1941 to September 1, 1942. Your salary will be at the rate of $2,000 a year. The salary will be supplied from three sources, namely the Unit for Work in Alaska, the Unit of Educational and Medical Work, and the local church. Upon the completion of eleven months of service, one month's vacation with full salary will be granted. The Board will take care of your traveling expenses from Skagway to Haines and will provide a reasonable sum for your moving expenses.

The Board reserves the following rights:

1. To cancel an assignment upon thirty days' notice.
2. To withhold a month's salary if a worker resigns without giving thirty days' notice.

As the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, you will be responsible to the Unit for Work in Alaska, Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary. As Director of Haines House, you will be responsible to the Unit of Educational and Medical Work, Miss Edna R. Voss, Secretary.

Although we prefer that the program for the church and the home be a united program, the budgets for the two departments of work, namely the church and the home, must be kept strictly separate.

Separate reports will be made to each Unit on the special requirements of each for publicity, financial check-up, and so forth.

As Director of Haines House, you will have full authority invested in you as the Director, with the final seat of authority resting in the Secretary of the Unit of Educational and Medical Work, Miss Edna R. Voss.

As the Director, you will be expected to recommend a budget each year (within Board set limits); you will recommend the personnel of the home (actual appointment being made by the New York office); you will recommend policies and programs; you will preside at weekly staff meetings of the home and handle all staff problems and major problems involving the children, admissions, dismissals, discipline, religious training, relationships with the Government schools and the Sheldon Jackson School.

We are herewith sending you triplicate copies of this appointment and will ask that you sign them, returning one copy direct to Miss Edna R. Voss, one copy direct to Dr. Everett B. King, and retaining one copy for yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

Everett B. King

Secretary
UNIT OF WORK IN ALASKA

Edna R. Voss

Secretary
UNIT OF EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL WORK

EBK:TTL

ACCEPTANCE: I hereby accept the above assignment subject to the terms thereof.

Signed Edwin E. Knudsen

Please sign and return by Air Mail to Dr. E. B. King.

AGREEMENT

July 3, 1941

In accepting the $300.00 salary advance, I hereby agree to have this repaid by monthly deductions of $50.00 each, beginning October first and continuing through March thirty-first, 1942.

In case of my death this loan will be first lien against the quarterage due my widow.

In case of withdrawal from the work this loan will be the first lien against final payment of my salary.

Under all circumstances, I agree this loan will be liquidated before March 31st, 1942.

Signed Edwin Knudsen
Edwin Knudsen

Signed Mrs Edwin Knudsen
Mrs. Edwin Knudsen

Notary

Signature

Date July 12 - 1941

Haines, Alaska, Jan. 12, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 5th. Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

There has been a letter on my chest for you for some time and I believe yours of Dec. 20, just received will start it off. The Alaska Steam has taken advantage of the situation to almost stop sending boats up this canal in which they have the monopoly. Our last boat was on Dec. 23rd. and no one knows when the next will arrive. The Canadians are the only ones who seem able to keep a regular schedule.

This new work is indeed taxing in some ways. It would not be so if Haines House were not continually short handed and always in difficulty of securing help. It is taking too much of my time doing the many needed mechanical jobs as well as keeping the heat up in both buildings to do effective work in the community and at the Post. I did not expect to inherit a completely rundown institution physically speaking. Everything has been patched and repatched and no new replacements for years until now there is little left to work with. My day starts at five thirty in the morning every day of the week with the building and conditioning of two boiler fires and four others. this takes almost two hours. Breakfast and then a round of general repair until noon with more fireing. In the afternoon I try to call in the community but fifty percent of that time is interrupted with emergency work at the home. I fire boilers again at five oclock and again at ten if the weather is severe. That roughly is my overall job as I look at it.

For the Post and Community I have maintained regular Sunday morning services Sunday School, Interpreted services in the afternoon for natives, and two C.E. groups in the evening. Wednesday Evening prayer and Choir Practice and open house for the Boys at the post every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evening. Some of the boys come over for the Young peoples fellowship Sunday evening also.

The work is not too much for one man if there were adequate help at the home. My need is for a good handy man who understands mechanics and can make permenant repairs. Mr. Stony is taking care of the dairy and doing a fine piece of work but he cannot work in the coal dust and ashes because of his lungs. There is the possibility that My brother and wife may come, unless he is caught in the draft, which will release my time a great deal.

I get very little cooperation from the commander at the Post as far as religious services are concerned. For instance, I offered

my services and the services of the Chior for Christmas day and seemed to be enthusiasticly accepted. We arrainged our services at the Church to accomodate this extra service and fifteen minutes before we were to appear we received word by rumor that the service had been called off. I called for conformation and found indeed it was true. We were to be notified of the new hour set and of course received no call. We do reach a goodly number of men(about 40) through our personal contacts. I am still hoping to establish a Sunday service on the Post.

With the leaving of so many families here I had the opportunity to buy some badly needed material for the Manse. I bought two Rugs for the living room each 9x 10½ feet with pads for 112.00 also a reading lamp and washing machine for 35.00 dollars. The chairs we were to order last fall were out of stock and have had no word from the company as to when they might arrive. How much of this do you think the board would be interested in? I have on hand 25.00 dollars from the Missionary society for the rugs, which would leave a balance of 86.00 dollars. We have papered the living room and hall and are about ready to paint the kitchen after I get the new cupboards built. We will paper the rest of the house in the spring. We have tried to make the manse a home and it is somewhat a sucess from the response the boys have given to it.

I fear for the growth of the Church here in Haines. First of all there is no need for a community and consequently the people who are here remain because of the lack of initiative. With the exception of the school people and government employees there is little to draw upon. Ex-soldiers with native wives all mixed up with one another and liquor, really presents a problem.

Well the only hope I see is with the children at the home and in the community, the farm as a source of food supply for all in this time of need and the encouragement of those who have eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to understand.

My real need is for a handy man.

Sincerely

Edwin E Knudsen

(COPY)

HAINES HOUSE
Haines, Alaska

April 11, 1932

Miss Edna R.Voss
156 5th Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Voss:

This is a beautiful Alaska spring day and early in the morning with the sun on the peaks I think it auspicious to reveal the "State of the Nation".

First of all Presbytery is not meeting this year but are voting by mail as to whether I go to Assembly or not. I have not yet heard of the outcome. However I see no reason for not coming except for the work here at the home. If I come I will wire you immediately and try to make the conference at Atlantic City. The Mrs. and I have been talking it over and if we come we will go from Prince Rupert to New York and on to Atlantic City. This will save time and expense.

We finish our visits to the hospital this afternoon where we are all to be blood typed. We have had our inoculations for diphtheria, typhoid, and whooping cough, and vaccination for small pox. We received all this for the sum of $50.00 which I believe will be cheap insurance in case of difficulty.

We are fully organized for taking to the woods in case of an alarm. The children can roll their blankets with their extra clothes inside, pick up their food can and be out of the building in four minutes. So if we have any kind of warning at all we will be out of sight in less than ten minutes.

Plans for the summer work are moving ahead. The basements have been cleaned of all their trash and the removal of fire hazards completed. I have an order for equipment and repairs to submit in the near future. I want to rearrange the basement of the old building and build a canning room there using the old range from the kitchen as soon as we can get the new oil range which Mrs. Holmes informs me is being donated by the First Church of Wichita. Quoting from her letter of March 24th, "However it seems that through some misunderstanding it was sent to the Board but wasn't designated for a stove but I hope you will have no trouble getting it for that. They sent a check for $187.50 and there is another $100 which we can raise if you need it." On the strength of this I am writing the Ingle Manufacturing Company for their prices and possibility of receiving a stove this summer. As long as there is a Post here there should be no difficulty in getting oil.

We have completed the framework for the new bunks in the Boys Building and are now rebuilding the springs. New mattresses are in need and we will have to order a dozen new ones. The boys have helped in building them and sanding for painting.

Our clearing project has worked very well, about two acres have been added to the pasture land and we have started a new one where we will realize more ground for cultivation. We have about an acre of this cut over now and incidently have over a hundred new fence posts at the same time.

The 4-H Club is working in fine shape with the members working in our Hot Bed and later having charge of a plot in the Garden. Four of them are raising calves and a number are studying canning. If we have any kind of summer this year we will have a good supply of food on hand for the coming winter.

I am hoping to see you this next month as now there are a great many problems to discuss and I am saving them until then.

Sincerely,

Edwin E. Knudsen.

Haines House
Haines, Alaska
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of the
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Edwin E. Knudsen, Executive

Sept. 10, 1942

Phylis B.McEwen
156 5th. Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. McEwen:

A reminder from Dr. King that I owe you this letter just came and I must say I am sorry not to have replied sooner. You request came while I was in the midst of "Haying" and filling silo, and then completely forgotten.

This being a defense area there is little I could say as to our present situation from a military standpoint. However our Church is trying in every way to be of assiatance spiritually to these men. Bible classes and fellowship hours are held at the Manse Sunday evening and during the week as conditions permit. The Church locally has been handicaped considerably due to the evacuation of civilian families of men employed at the barracks. In fact if it were not for Haines House we would have no Sunday School teachers or leaders of religion in the church. Occasionally there is a soldier that has the training and willingness to help and we always welcome them into our program.

The greatest evil we have to combat is that of liquor. It flows very freely in our Community and is a great problem. We receive no cooperation from the Command and I imagine this is the only Post where Religious services are not welcomed. This was a winter and summer condition. Just what will come with the fall no one knows. The Church is ready to serve whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I'm sorry I cannot give you more detail but this is wartime. I must say some of the conditions have changed and we look forward to the challenge of the new for a closer fellowship in service.

sincerely

Edwin E. Knudsen

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FEB 8 1944

Jan. 17, 1944

Dear Willis:-

Since you were here in october we have had a rather eventful schedule. all of my time being taken up with Haines Home Problems.

The water main blew out five times + we just finished work on it this last week. We were forced to lay new pipe from the house to the barn, + new main from the street to the Home. All this in a steady rain after two pumps going to keep the water down + then I had to make connections under a foot of water.

Help was impossible to get until this month when a few natives were released from construction. along with this daily chore was the regular farming until the first when Stoney came to work. ~~but~~ then the cook left with her husband + so I had to take over the Kitchen for part time diversion.

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How they survive I don't know.

The last week I carried the cooking alone but so now I have the wives of two contr. workers on the job this morning.

How long this will last I don't know.

It was a joy to serve Skagway as long as I did which was until Christmas when a chaplin arrived. There were a few Sundays I missed on account of transportation. It was a fine experience & they appreciated it.

As to this new pastor I think Whiteside is the logical man for the place. He is young & energetic and can win them over easily.

The local folk are scattered from the efforts of the former pastor, but not bitter. Expression has been made to the board for my return, but it seems I am needed here more and while at first considering it home come to

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give up the idea. Haines House is too much of a job right now. While Stoney is a good farmer he is a poor plumber + electrician and many problems arise that take my time in this capacity.

The prospect of camp work is very limited all camps are being closed + the army has left except for five exec. officers + a civilian maintenance crew. I had my pass + transportation ready to begin this week when the order to close came thru. What the future will bring I am not sure, but I look for a reopening of activity in the spring.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year -

Sincerely

Ed.